In The Claims:

Please replace the previously presented claim set with the following replacement claim set:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying ~~the~~ a surface of a ~~substrate~~ step joint in a vehicle body comprising the steps of:

(a) placing a sheet material on ~~said~~ the surface of the step joint, ~~an article~~ said sheet material comprising (i) a lower melt-flowable layer comprising a melt-flowable composition, the melt-flowable layer having a thickness in the range of at least about 0.05 mm up to about 25 mm, and (ii) a dimensionally stable film for controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition, said film having a surface topography and being sufficiently dimensionally stable so as not to melt and flow or exhibit wrinkling when heated to a melt sealing temperature of the melt-flowable composition and subsequently cooled, said sheet material being placed on the surface of the step joint such that said melt-flowable composition contacts said surface of the step joint~~, said film having a surface topography~~;

(b) heating ~~said article~~ the sheet material to a melt sealing temperature sufficient to cause said melt-flowable composition to flow ~~over and substantially cover a desired area of said surface to adhere said article to said surface, said dimensionally stable film controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition to substantially confine said melt-flowable composition to said desired area of said surface~~ and level out over surface imperfections or fill gaps in the step joint, as well as adhere and form a bond to the step joint; and

(c) allowing ~~said article~~ the sheet material and the step joint to cool while substantially retaining said surface topography of said film,

wherein the melt-flowable layer is thick enough to provide sufficient material to flow and seal the step joint, the sheet material remains adhered to the step joint, and topographical or protective features are imparted to the step joint by the sheet material.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said melt-flowable composition comprises a thermoplastic composition.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said melt-flowable composition comprises a thermosetting composition.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said melt-flowable composition comprises a semi-crystalline, thermosetting composition comprising an epoxy-polyester blend.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises an ultra-high molecular weight polyolefin.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises an ultra-high molecular weight microporous polyolefin.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~wh4erein~~ wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises an oriented polyester.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises oriented polyethylene terephthalate.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth surface topography.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface,

said method further comprising applying paint to said paint-receptive surface, said paint-receptive surface remaining substantially smooth following cooling.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein said substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface comprises a thermosetting epoxy-polyester blend.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein said substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface comprises an ethylene-vinyl alcohol film.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth, bondable surface,

said method further comprising bonding a component to said bondable surface of said film.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 5% during said heating step.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 3% during said heating step.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 2% during said heating step.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb shrinkage of less than about 1% and a crossweb shrinkage of less than about 0.5% during said heating step.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~comprising placing said article on~~ wherein the surface of the step joint forms part of a roof ditch ~~of a vehicle and heating said article to seal said roof ditch~~.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface,

said method further comprising applying paint to said paint-receptive surface,

said paint-receptive surface remaining substantially smooth following cooling.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying the surface of a ~~substrate~~ vehicle comprising the steps of:

(a) placing on said surface an article comprising (i) a melt-flowable composition comprising a semi-crystalline, thermosetting epoxy-polyester blend and (ii) a dimensionally stable film for controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition, such that said melt-flowable composition contacts said surface, said film comprising an oriented polyester film having a substantially smooth surface topography;

(b) heating said article to cause said melt-flowable composition to flow over and substantially cover a desired area of said surface to adhere said article to said surface, said dimensionally stable film exhibiting a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 5% and controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition to substantially confine said melt-flowable composition to said desired area of said surface; and

(c) allowing said article to cool while substantially retaining said substantially smooth surface topography of said film.

29. (Previously Presented) A method for modifying the surface of a substrate comprising the steps of:

(a) placing on said surface an article comprising (i) a melt-flowable composition and (ii) a dimensionally stable film for controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition, such that said melt-flowable composition contacts said surface, said

film comprising a substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface comprising a thermosetting epoxy-polyester blend;

(b) heating said article to cause said melt-flowable composition to flow over and substantially cover a desired area of said surface to adhere said article to said surface, said dimensionally stable film controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition to substantially confine said melt-flowable composition to said desired area of said surface; and

(c) allowing said article to cool while substantially retaining said substantially smooth surface topography of said film.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises an oriented polyester film provided on one surface with a thermosetting epoxy-polyester blend.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein said melt-flowable composition comprises a plurality of melt-flowable layers in which the melt-flow properties of the individual layers are tailored such that said layers cooperate with each other to ~~achieve the desired coverage of~~ seal said ~~surface~~ step joint.

33. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the melt-flowable layer has a thickness in the range of from 0.20 mm to 10 mm.

34. (New) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of painting the sheet material after the sheet material is allowed to cool.

35. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the surface of the vehicle comprises a roof ditch.